

HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **January 14, 2016.**

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Cameron Rognan, Vice Chairman	Washington County HCP
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
John Kellam	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Absent and Excused was:

Marshall Topham	Local Biologist
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Also present were:

Bob Sandberg	Washington County HCP Administrator
Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kristen Comella noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. December 10, 2015

MOTION by Cameron Rognan to approve the minutes.
Seconded by Ann McLuckie.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Discussion of field trip to Ivins Dikes

Members of the committee took a field trip to Ivins Dam #6, where there is going to be debris removal soon. Kristen Comella had a concern over the loss of vegetation. Originally, within the removal areas, there was talk about keeping some vegetation, but during the field trip they mentioned that all vegetation above knee height would be removed. The committee spoke about planting and reseeding the dike structure and the sediment basin due to the void of vegetation cover and forage for tortoises. The committee agreed there should be an ongoing maintenance plan where the dikes are evaluated yearly, but action is only taken to remove debris or tortoise burrows when

necessary. Nathan Brown will be sure there are reseeding plans for the berm and basin as well as stock piling the topsoil.

b. Quarry Trail update

Cameron Rognan updated the committee on the Quarry Trail. The proponents have installed a monument and have a meeting with Cameron tomorrow regarding trail construction. Ann McLuckie asked if there was a survey of the boundary done. Cameron said no survey was completed because in the areas of question it was so close they just assumed it was all in the Reserve. The trail will be 18 inches, marked with markers and outlined with rocks.

c. Pioneer Park fencing update

Cameron mentioned Pioneer Park fencing is proceeding as planned. The City is not going to help with the fencing so HCP staff will take care of it. The HCP printed tortoise “Respect and Protect” stickers to put at step-overs throughout Pioneer Park and other areas in the Reserve to serve as a reminder to stay on trail.

d. Desert Tortoise Council meeting - February 19-21

Ann and Cameron mentioned the Desert Tortoise Council Symposium will be held at Sam’s Town in Las Vegas, NV February 19th to 21st. Cameron will be presenting a review of the HCP over the past 20 years. Ann will be discussing culvert monitoring with remote cameras located along Red Hills Parkway, in the Reserve.

4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Nathan wanted to talk about the Long Valley “take” tortoise issue. There are tortoises in the area, but it is not a “take” area. The committee discussed how that take could be covered. Bob Sandberg mentioned he talked to Larry Crist and they agreed to put the issue on the January 26th HCAC agenda.

b. John Kellam asked if active tortoise burrows in the Reserve are marked. He was out working and found a few but was not sure if he was supposed to tag them. He noted them to add to the BLM database. The committee told him the active burrows are not tagged in the Reserve.

c. Kristen mentioned Snow Canyon Snow Park staff went out on site to look at trail options surrounding Sentierre’s proposed trail. She asked Nathan if there is a requirement to remove another trail, if there is a new trail added. He answered removing a trail or mitigating for a new one would both be options. She discussed a couple options for trails in the area, and she will discuss the options with Park user groups to get more feedback. Sentierre’s trail proposal should be an agenda item next month.

d. Bob reminded the committee that St. George City and Washington City are both doing some road and well work. Rocky Mountain Power starts Monday the 18th replacing poles from Turkey Farm Road to Winchester Hills. Stantec will monitor that project.

e. Bob mentioned Kirk Willey asked for the committee members' contact information to send each member his development plan. Bob asked Mr. Willey to send him the information so he could bring it to the TC and HCAC meetings, but he did not hear back from him.

5. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

a. **February 11, 2016**

6. **ADJOURN**

MOTION by Nathan Brown to adjourn.

Seconded by Cameron Rognan.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.